

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /072 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1059

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT ECON

SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY CC PLENUM

1. CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY CC ENDED ITS THIRD PLENUM SEPT 14. PURPOSE OF PLENUM WAS TO REVIEW DEVELOPMENT OF METALLURGY AND ENGINEERING SINCE THE 15TH PARTY CONGRESS AND PREPARATIONS FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS TO THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY TO BE HELD NEXT MONTH.

2. PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL HUSAK PRESIDED OVER OPENING AND CLOSING SESSIONS, BUT STROUGAL DELIVERED THE MAJOR SPEECH OF THE PLENUM, THE REPORT OF THE CC PRESIDUM. PARTY SECRETARY BILAK GAVE REPORT ON ECPC.

3. STROUGAL'S REPORT AND STATEMENTS BY OTHER SPEAKERS WHICH SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM FBIS, BROKE NO NEW GROUND. THEY ADDRESSED CHRONIC PROBLEMS OF CZECHOSLOVAK INDUSTRY: ENERGY WASTE, FAILURE TO MEET DEADLINES, OVERGROWN ADMINISTRATIVE

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APPARATUS, AND SLOW PACE OF MODERNIZATION AND INTRODUCTION OF

NEW TECHNOLOGY. STROUGAL TOUCHED ON WELL-KNOWN PROBLEMS WITH EXPORTS TO CAPITALIST COUNTRIES AND CALLED FOR IMPROVED PRODUCTION CAPACITY AND HIGHER LABOR EFFICIENCY. HE CITED NEED FOR SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN WORK OF MINISTRIES OF ENGINEERING AND OF METALLURGY.

4. IN CLOSING SPEECH HUSAK DWELT ON NEED FOR INSPIRING PEOPLE TO SUPPORT PARTY'S INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND TO TAKE INITIATIVE TOWARD HIGHER LABOR PRODUCTIVITY AND QUALITY. HE PLACED SPECIAL STRESS ON RESPONSIBILITY OF MANAGERS AND ON "THE OVERWHELMING ROLE OF CADRE POLICY."

5. STROUGAL REPORTED THAT INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT DURING FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1976 WAS 5.8 PERCENT ABOVE THAT IN SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, AN INCREASE GREATER THAN CALLED FOR IN THE PLAN, AND THAT PRODUCTIVITY WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR 90 PERCENT OF THAT INCREASE. HE ALSO SAID PERSONAL INCOMES HAD INCREASED MORE THAN 4 PERCENT IN THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF THE YEAR AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

6. THE PRESIDUM REPORT CONCLUDED THAT ELECTION PREPARATIONS ARE GOING FORWARD WELL BUT CALLED FOR INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION TO THE PREPARATIONS BY LOCAL PARTY AND NATIONAL FRONT ORGANIZATIONS TO MAKE THE ELECTIONS "A MANIFESTATION OF SUPPORT FOR PARTY POLICY, UNITY OF THE WORKING PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY, AND FRATERNAL ALLIANCE WITH THE SOVIET UNION."

7. COMMENT: PLENUM SERVED TO UNDERLINE WHAT HAS BEEN CLEAR TO OBSERVERS FOR SOME TIME: THAT CZECHOSLOVAK ECONOMY HAS BASIC AND GROWING PROBLEMS, RESOLUTION OF WHICH WILL REQUIRE MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS IN MANAGEMENT, RAPID INTRODUCTION OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY AND INCREASE IN LABOR PRODUCTIVITY. REPORTS ON THE PLENUM DO NOT REPORT NOT INDICATE WHETHER THE STILL MORE BASIC PROBLEMS OF WHERE TO GET THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE TO PAY FOR NEW WESTERN TECHNOLOGY AND WHERE TO FIND THE MANAGERIAL TALENT WERE ADDRESSED.
BYRNE

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